

## Alameda Point RAB Meeting on September 1, 2011

### Highlights and Analysis

RAB members present: Dale Smith (Community Co-Chair), Richard Bangert, Carol Gottstein, M.D, Daniel Hoy, George Humphreys, James Leach, Kurt Peterson, Jean Sweeney, Jim Sweeney, and Michael John Torrey.

Navy BEC Derek Robinson announced that the least terns, an endangered species, have left for the season.

Citing projected budget reductions, Mr. Robinson suggested the RAB consider meeting less frequently than monthly. After considerable discussion, further consideration was deferred until the December RAB meeting.

Remediation and other field work in progress:

- A Navy/EPA/University of Florida field research study is ongoing at Plume 4-1, immediately north of Building 360 near Alameda Point's east entrance. The research focuses on better characterizing the solvent contamination in groundwater prior to remedy selection and design. This research should improve not only the Navy's cleanup of OU-2B groundwater, but similar contamination elsewhere.
- Performance groundwater monitoring is ongoing to assess the effectiveness of remediation at IR Site 6 (Building 41, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Facility), IR Site 16 (Shipping Container Storage Area), in the southeast corner of Alameda Point, IR Site 27 (Dock Zone), and IR Site 28 (Todd Shipyard), near the dog park along Oakland Inner Harbor.
- Radiological status surveys of selected buildings to rule out potential radiological residues are ongoing.
- A radiological characterization survey is nearing completion for surface and near-surface soil at IR Site 32 (Northwestern Ordinance Storage Area), which is immediately east of the IR Site 1 landfill, along Oakland Inner Harbor.
- The air sparge/vapor extraction system to treat groundwater contaminated with benzene and naphthalene at Alameda Point OU-5 and FISCA IR Site 2 is operating.
- Construction of six-phase heating dual cell array for pilot testing at IR Site 21 (Ship Fitting and Engine Repair, Building 162) is in progress, including installation of power lines, assembly of equipment, and driving of sheet piles. IR Site 21 is part of OU-2B.
- Drying, disposal profiling, and off-hauling of the sediments already dredged from Seaplane Lagoon is continuing through this summer. About 16,000 cubic yards of excavated sediment have been radiologically screened, and 4,300 cubic yards completely processed and determined not to require disposal as hazardous waste. Dredging of the northwest corner of Seaplane Lagoon will be conducted between September 2011 and March 15, 2012, after the California least terns depart.

Operable Unit 2C Feasibility Study Addendum

OU-2C is the industrialized area north of Seaplane Lagoon, centered on Building 5. The Navy presented to the RAB the draft addendum to the OU-2C FS, which evaluates alternatives for remediating radiological contamination in drain lines leading from OU-2C: Storm Drains A and B, which flows northward to Oakland Inner Harbor; Storm Drain G, which flows to the northeast corner of Seaplane Lagoon; and an industrial waste line beneath West Tower Avenue south of Building 5. Low levels of radium contamination remain in the storm drain lines, primarily as a result of wastewater from historic dial and deck marker painting in Building 5. Prior to general environmental awareness (and passage of the Clean Water Act) in the 1960s, most wastewater, including industrial wastewater from facilities like NAS Alameda, was discharged directly into the nearest surface water. At Alameda Point this was done by discharging wastewater to the Bay through storm drain lines. Even though this practice has long since ended, traces of radium remain in the storm drain lines emanating from OU-2C. The Navy has already excavated and removed Storm Drains F and FF due to radiological contamination from OU-2C.

The remedial alternatives discussed with the RAB ranged from institutional controls alone (<\$1 million) to complete excavation and removal of all the lines (\$58 million). The two apparently most viable alternatives involved cleaning in place the three storm drain lines, which are not very contaminated, coupled with either placing institutional controls on the more contaminated industrial waste line (\$6 million) or excavating and removing it (\$13 million). Some uncertainty exists as to whether the storm drain lines can be suitably cleaned in place. Several RAB members favored removal of the industrial waste line, fearing that institutional controls are unreliable.